

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

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For Immediate Release

MAY 4, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 4, 2004, **CARLA HILL**, age 44, of 114 Vera Street, Carterville, Illinois, and **LISA BAKER**, age 37, of 102 East Heacock, Jonesboro, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois in a two (2) count indictment charging them with knowingly and intentionally distributing, and possessing with intent to distribute 21,000 dosage units of Hydrocodone, a Schedule II controlled substance in violation of and Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 and knowingly and willfully executing and attempting to execute a scheme to defraud a Health Care Benefit Plan in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347. The violations took place from in April of 1999, to October 2003, in Jackson County, Illinois. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

HILL and BAKER face up to twenty years of imprisonment, up to 5 years of supervised release and fines of up to \$500,000 on the two count indictment.

Information for the indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Ranley R. Killian.